

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Friday 19 Feb 2021 until 23:59 on Saturday 20 Feb 2021

Forecast Issued on Thursday 18 Feb 2021 at 13:50

Confidence: High for generally unsettled and seasonally mild, but confidence lowering for the extent and timing of the worst conditions, particularly from the weekend.

Headline for Friday 19 Feb 2021: Dull with rain, heavy at times.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 19 Feb 2021

Blizzards

No Likelihood

Gales

High Likelihood

Thunderstorms

No Likelihood

Heavy Snow

Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect

Medium Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain

High Likelihood

Storm force winds

Low Likelihood

Poor visibility

High Likelihood

Strong sunlight

No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
							
Cloudy	Dull	Heavy snow	Sleet	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain
Precipitation probability							
00%	20%	40%	90%	>95%	>95%	>95%	>95%

Forecast for Friday 19 Feb 2021

Weather: Cloud thickening from the west during the night with patchy light snow arriving towards dawn, falling as rain below around 600m. A dull, overcast day with occasional snow and rain, heavy at times, particularly through the afternoon. Snow level 600m at first, gradually rising to lift above all summits mid-afternoon. Rain turning increasingly light and patchy through the evening, with chance of some clear spells in the west towards midnight.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: By day virtually nil

Visibility: Moderate or poor in rain, less in cloud with bases extensive from 500-750m.

Forecast for Friday 19 Feb 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	32/40 SW	40/50 S	50/63 S	52/67 S	52/67 S	48/63 S	46/60 S	43/57 S	35/47 S
600	25/35 SW	32/45 S	40/54 S	42/58 S	40/56 S	38/54 S	35/51 S	34/50 S	27/41 S
300	10/28 SW	11/32 S	14/41 S	15/45 S	15/44 S	15/44 S	14/42 S	14/40 S	13/34 S
Valley	8/24 SW	11/29 S	13/35 S	15/40 S	17/43 S	17/41 S	17/39 S	17/38 S	15/32 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-0/-9	-1/-10	-1/-11	-0/-10	2/-8	3/-5	4/-4	4/-3	4/-3
600	1/-6	1/-7	0/-8	2/-7	3/-4	5/-2	5/-1	6/-1	6/-0
300	3/-0	3/-2	3/-2	4/-1	5/1	6/3	7/3	7/4	7/4
Valley	5/2	5/2	5/1	6/2	7/3	8/5	9/5	9/6	9/6
Freezing Level*	700m	700m	800m	1200m	1700m	1800m	1900m	1700m	1600m

*Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.

Meteorologist's View

Severe summit gales, perhaps reaching storm force at times, bringing severe wind chill at height.

Forecast for Saturday 20 Feb 2021

Weather: Detail uncertain, but best chance of dry and perhaps bright conditions early morning on an otherwise cloudy day with occasional rain, which again turns heavy at times. Severe wind chill at height.

Maximum wind: South mean 35-40 mph with gusts reaching 60mph at times across most exposed ridges and summits.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 15%

Visibility: Moderate or poor in rain, less in cloud with bases quite extensive from 500-750m.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 5 Celsius rising 11 Celsius during the afternoon

At 800m: Plus 3-5 Celsius

Freezing level: Above summits

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Thursday 18 February Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:20 Temperature: minus 0.2 degC. Maximum wind speed 41.7mph. Wind chill: minus 9.7degC. Average wind speed: 24.6mph

Full report: We are continuing to provide the Fell Top Reports for people undertaking their daily local exercise during the lockdown. We would like to remind everyone that Government guidance stipulates that people should only exercise locally to where they live. A day of challenging conditions on the Lake District fells with wintery squalls and heavy rain blowing through on strong winds. The freezing level was around 900m and below this the remaining snowpack was continuing to thaw. Some routes such as the Swirls path on Helvellyn can now be climbed without setting foot on snow until you get to the summit plateau. However Striding & Swirral Edge and other N through E aspects are still in full winter condition with significant amounts of snow still present down to Red Tarn at 700m. The exits to both Edges consists of steep unavoidable snow above a significant drop. It would only take a small drop in temperature for these to refreeze giving very serious conditions underfoot. Where undisturbed the snow is generally soft and sugary but where it has been compressed by walkers feet or is overlying drainage lines then there are large areas of sheet ice and hard snow to contend with. Above 850m there was a sprinkling of new snow but the main hazards on the plateau were verglas, rime ice, areas of sheet ice and neve. Crampons and ice axes are still essential for all but the flattest of routes on the high summits and should be carried by anyone venturing above the snowline. Microspikes and trekking poles are also very useful in preventing slips and trips There are cornices above, predominantly but not exclusively, N and E facing slopes. These have slumped and are thawing in the warmer temperatures. Therefore, although reduced in size, they are extremely unstable, so please keep well clear of such edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise. Despite the milder temperatures, the summit windchill remains well below freezing so full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. Goggles were almost essential today for dealing with the snow, sleet and graphal being driven through on strong winds. Please be conservative with your plans and know both your limits and also when to turn back.

Issued at: 1350 on Thu 18 Feb 2021